

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4-21, and 31-40 are pending in the application. Claims 31-40 are withdrawn from consideration. Examination of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

**I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 121**

Claims 1-21 and 31-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as being directed to distinct inventions. The distinct inventions were identified as follows:

- Group I: claims 1-21 drawn to a transmitter with a puncturing device and interleaver; and
- Group II: claims 31-40 drawn to a receiver with a de-puncturing device and de-interleaver.

***Applicant hereby elects Group I directed to claims 1 and 4-21 without traverse.***

**II. CONCLUSION**

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, LLP134WOUS.

Respectfully submitted,  
ESCHWEILER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

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